



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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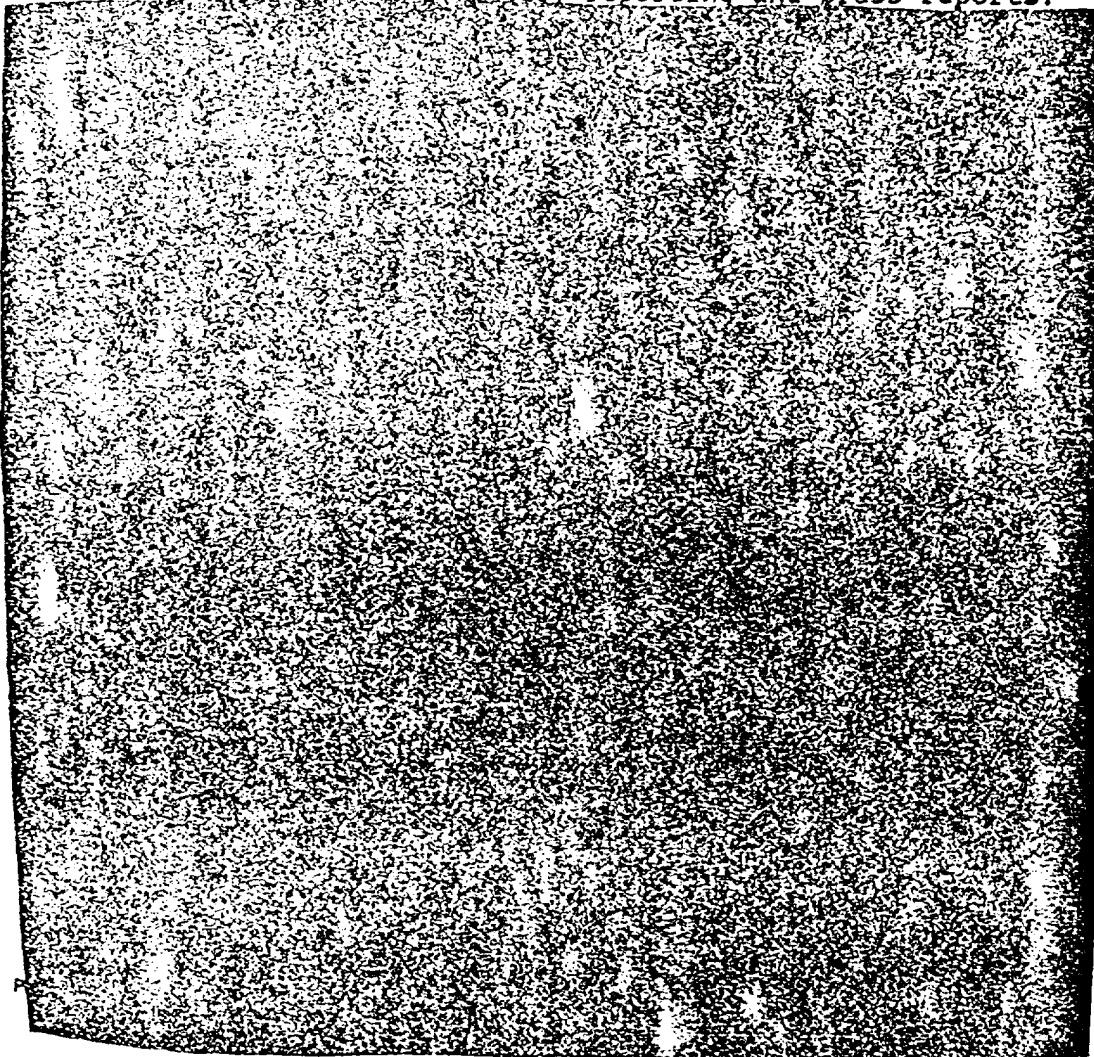
## SPOT COMMENTARY

24 February 1991  
0600 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #601

### The Opening Moves in the Ground War

Coalition forces have broken through Iraqi defensive lines in several places and are advancing along the entire front, according to preliminary military reporting and press reports.



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Comment: [REDACTED]

A Scud launched earlier today (0132Z) was intercepted over Riyadh, according to press. No injuries or deaths resulted from that missile, but the warhead badly damaged a school less than 4 miles from the US Embassy. [REDACTED]

#### Saddam Announces Ground Offensive in Radio Address

At approximately 0230 EST, Saddam Husayn addressed the Iraqi people in a speech carried by Baghdad radio in which he announced the initiation of the coalition ground campaign. Saddam accused coalition leaders and Saudi King Fahd of being "cowards who have perfected the acts of treachery, treason, and vileness," adding that this was taking place as the UN Security Council was deciding to look into the Soviet peace proposal. In the second half of his speech, Saddam encouraged all Iraqis to "fight the infidel."

Comment: [REDACTED]

#### International Reaction to Beginning of Ground War

Early morning press reports have featured international reactions to the initiation of the ground war.

- o Israeli officials have expressed satisfaction and support for the coalition offensive. In response to the ground attack, the Israeli Army renewed a blanket curfew in the occupied territories in an attempt to prevent pro-Iraqi violence.
- o Australian Prime Minister Hawke said there was no alternative to the ground offensive and that the coalition had been right to set its deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.
- o New Zealand's Prime Minister Bolger called the ground war "tragically unavoidable."
- o In South Korea, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Seoul regrets that a ground war is necessary to oust Iraq from Kuwait but supports the coalition decision to attack.

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- o In Japan, Prime Minister Kaifu told reporters he was "extremely disappointed" by Iraq's refusal to leave Kuwait and he hoped the war would end soon.
- o The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement expressing the hope that the Gulf war will end as soon as possible and with as little loss of life as possible, and noted that Iraq did not use available opportunities to avoid violence.

~~TOP SECRET~~ Yemen's media has called for the following actions to be taken in support of Iraq:

- o a general strike throughout the country from 0900 until 1000 local time today;
- o marches organized by the "High Committee for the Defense of Iraq" following the strike; and
- o a fast each Monday as a sign of support for an Iraqi victory.

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